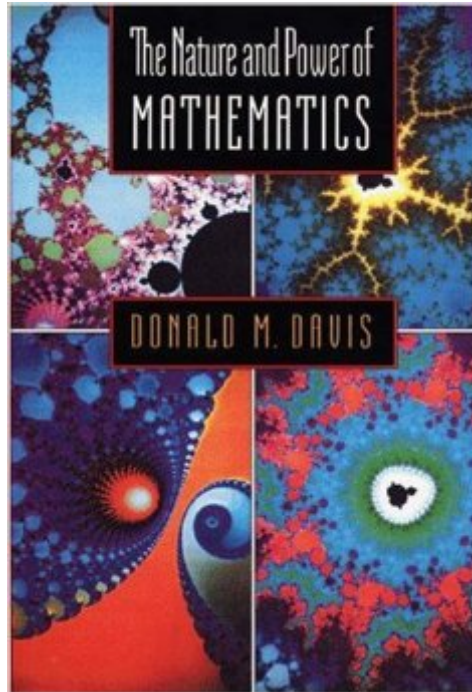


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The Nature And Power Of Mathematics



Synopsis

In this engaging book, Donald Davis explains some of the most fascinating ideas in mathematics to the nonspecialist, highlighting their philosophical and historical interest, their often surprising applicability, and their beauty. The three main topics discussed are non-Euclidean geometry, with its application to the theory of relativity; number theory, with its application to cryptography; and fractals, which are an application in art, among other areas, of early mathematical work on iteration. Other topics include the influence of Greek mathematics on Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and the theoretical work that led to the development of computers. Assuming the reader has some background in basic algebra and geometry, Davis relies on exercises to develop some of the important concepts. These exercises are designed to improve the reader's ability in logic, and enable him or her actually to experience mathematics at increasingly advanced levels.

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I find that books with illustrations simply do not work well in ebook formats. This should be addressed, but so far it hasn't been. I have a paperback version, which is a much better format. As a book, I found it excellent. Understanding the concepts requires work--no surprise--but if anything in high school math made sense to you (I enjoyed geometry but nothing else), and you're curious about math without any real expertise, you will benefit from this book. As is always the case in books that "explain" math, the book will make leaps that will leave the non-math mind bewildered.

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